

## Concert Band News

With the end of summer comes the end of The USAF Band's Summer Concert Series at the U.S. Capitol. What a suc-



*CMSgt Robin Forrester-Meadows*

for a concert on September 11 in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. This outdoor concert is free and will take place at 6 p.m. at Harpers Ferry Historical Park. In October, we hit the road for Fall Tour 1999. Our 15-day tour will take us to Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. USAF Band Deputy Commander Major Frank Grzych will conduct the ensemble for this tour. Please check the calendar for more tour information.



*SMSgt Edward McKee*

In recognition of personal achievement, several runners in The Concert Band have been logging lots of miles. In May, SMSgt Robert Little, MSgt Sandra Cox and TSgt Brian McCurdy ran in the USO Defenders Cup 10-mile race. Sergeant Little also ran the Tommy Hilfiger Erase M.S. 5K race in July. MSgt Jeffery Gaylord competed in the Annapolis 10-miler.

We are saying goodbye to five Concert Band members. CMSgt Robin Forrester-Meadows, our second oboist, joined The Concert Band in 1996. She served as director of supply from 1991-96. Chief Forrester-Meadows played in regional Air Force bands from 1977-91. We congratulate her on an outstanding 22-year career in

the Air Force and wish her continued success as she and her family move to Denver, Colorado. SMSgt Edward McKee, tubist extraordinaire, is retiring following 23 years in the Air Force. He joined The Concert Band in 1980 after serving with the band at Scott Air Force Base. He was the leader of the Dixieland Band and the Brass Quintet. We all wish Ed good luck and congratulations upon his retirement. MSgt Lawrence Ink, our principal flutist, is retiring after 21 years in The Concert Band. In addition to his Concert Band duties, MSgt Ink was a member of the Woodwind Quintet and Symphony Orchestra. He recently won the position of flute and theory professor at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri. We wish him good luck in his second career. Clarinetist MSgt Brian Jones is



*MSgt Lawrence Ink*

separating from the Air Force after seven years with The Concert Band. Our best wishes go with Dr. Jones as he returns to the civilian sector. Bassist MSgt William Hones is returning to The Air Force Strings, the group with which he began his career. We would like to thank Bill for his six outstanding years with The Concert Band.

—MSgt Jeffery Gaylord

cessful season we had this year! The Concert Band, along with other units of The USAF Band entertained audiences with the variety of style and talent that has been the trademark of our organization since its inception.

The Concert Band performed to a capacity house at the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles Convention in San Luis Obispo, California in July. On both occasions that this convention has been held in the United States, The Concert Band has been a featured group. We look forward to continuing this tradition into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our two combined performances with The Airmen of Note in California were presented to capacity audiences. This marked the first time in 25 years that these ensembles performed pieces together. Hopefully it will not be so long before we join forces again.

The upcoming months offer us many performing opportunities throughout the country. The Concert Band will team up with The Singing Sergeants

Brass music has played an important role in public gatherings and ceremonies for hundreds of years. Military leaders have always been keenly aware of the strength and carrying power of brass and percussion instruments, and have often called upon them to perform signals, alarms and other outdoor ceremonial and concert music. The United States Air Force Ceremonial Brass continues this ancient tradition by providing the finest musical support for state arrivals at the White House, full honor arrivals for foreign dignitaries at the Pentagon, retirements, changes of command, awards ceremonies, patriotic programs and funerals at Arlington National Cemetery. Because of the variety

of its commitments, the ensemble's repertoire ranges from traditional hymns to original commissioned works.

During the summer, The Brass continued to perform at its normal high standard. The group shined at a performance for the retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Eric W. Benken. They also added the pomp and circumstance to the 11<sup>th</sup> Operations Group change-of-command ceremony. As the year continues, The Ceremonial Brass will remain on call as always, ready at a moment's notice to supply our nation and our Air Force with world-class musical support.